

History

The original site of Kiptopeke State Park was purchased by the Virginia Ferry Corp. for the northern terminus of the ferry which traveled from Virginia Beach to the Eastern Shore. In 1949, when the terminus was moved from Cape Charles, the site was named Kiptopeke Beach in honor of the younger brother of the king of the Accawmack Indians who had befriended early settlers to the area. Kiptopeke means big water.

Features

Beach frontage: 4,276 feet along the Chesapeake Bay.

Breakwater: A row of nine surplus World War II concrete ships form a breakwater approximately 1,500 feet long.

Swimming Beach: Kiptopeke's northern beach fronts nearly half a mile on the Chesapeake Bay and features a swimming area and beach. A modern beach house is open for beach users. No swimming prior to dawn or after dusk. No lifeguards.

Camping: Our full-service campground offers sites with water, electric and sewer hookups, warm showers, modern restrooms and a primitive camp area with no hookups. Each site has a picnic table and a fire ring.

Group Picnics, Playground: Picnic tables and grills are available. Picnic shelters accommodating up to 72 are available for reservations. A handicapped accessible playground is also available.

Hiking: Stroll through upland hardwood forest and coastal woodlands on four miles of trails. Please stay on trails.

Fishing: The concrete ships located off the park's waterfront offer some of Virginia's finest fishing. A dual boat ramp provides boaters access to the Chesapeake Bay. The southern beach is great for surf fishing and beach combing. The large fishing pier provides 1,000 feet of fishing opportunities 24 hours a day, April 15-December 31. Pier fees apply.

Programming

Interpretive-Naturalist Programs: Canoeing, crabbing, fishing, campfire programs, junior ranger activities and more are available Memorial Day to Labor Day. Hawk observatory and bird banding station programs offered in late August through November. Please ask for the summer/fall interpretive brochure for more information. See our trail guide for birding program information.

Environmental Education Workshop: Teachers have the opportunity to attend the award-winning *Your Backyard Classroom Workshops*. School children then may visit through teacher-led activities.

Campground Rules

- Camping is allowed only in designated campgrounds and only after following the proper check-in procedure described in the Reservation and Fees Guide available at the park office.
- Registration for a state park campsite must be completed by a member of the camping party 18 years of age or older. This person accepts responsibility for the remainder of the camping party.
- Campsites are designed to be used by a maximum of six people or one family.
- One motor vehicle, in addition to the camping unit, is permitted per site. Only the camping unit listed on the campsite application is permitted.
- State park campgrounds are intended for the use by the traveling public. The maximum camping stay per park is 14 days in any 30-day period.
- Check-out time is 3 p.m. No camping units, vehicles or personal property may be left or allowed to remain after the termination of the permitted camping period.
- Several sites are handicap modified.
- Sites begin at the left of the pedestal and run from pedestal to pedestal at all hook-up sites. These sites are considered back-in sites; please no pull-thru.
- There is a laundry facility in each campground bathhouse.
- Quiet hours posted in all state park campgrounds must be observed from 10 p.m.– 8 p.m.
- Fires must be confined to grills, camp stoves or designated fire rings.
- Pets are allowed in state park campgrounds. A fee will be charged for each pet per night. Dogs must be on leashes no longer than 6 feet.
- At the time of registration, campers must inform the park staff of the names of visitors expected to arrive at the campsite. Visitors will not be admitted to camping area unless so identified. Visitors are permitted between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Family Lodges

- Kiptopeke State Park family lodges are rented on a weekly basis. The weekly reservation period varies, but the maximum rental is two consecutive weeks. Lodges not reserved on a weekly basis may be rented at a nightly rate for a minimum of two nights. Please call our reservation center for more information at 1-800-933-PARK or contact the park office at (757)331-2267.
- No additional beds are available in the lodges, which accommodate up to 16 people.
- Up to six vehicles and two boat trailers are permitted and must be parked in the designated parking spaces. Additional vehicles must be parked at the park office.

Notice: Due to water conservation efforts and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality regulations, no boat, RV, or car washing allowed.

Frequent visitors save money

Annual passes for parking and swimming offer the frequent visitor greater savings. Stop by the park office for details.

Virginia State Parks Reservation Center

For more information on Virginia State Parks or to make a cabin or campsite reservation, call 1-800-933-PARK.

Join us in the parks –

DCR's Volunteer Program

DCR offers diverse opportunities for volunteers in most state parks and natural areas throughout the state. Inquire at the park office for details.

For more information, contact:

Kiptopeke State Park
3540 Kiptopeke Drive
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-2267

You can also visit DCR's home page at www.virginiastateparks.gov



203 Governor St., Suite 302
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(800) 933-PARK

VIRGINIA

STATE PARKS

Kiptopeke State Park Guide

Cape Charles, Virginia

Virginia State Parks provide
A Natural Legacy
of outdoor activities and
programs. They are an important
part of DCR's efforts to promote
a strong conservation ethic.
These efforts ensure that the
best of Virginia's natural
resources will be protected and
available for future generations.

Welcome to Kiptopeke, the only state park on the Eastern Shore. The 536-acre site offers a variety of outdoor recreation and ways to learn about our natural world. The park, like the entire Eastern Shore, has a long and colorful history. Park programming covers that history as well as the area's abundant natural treasures.

Kiptopeke State Park is a park under development. Local residents and repeat visitors will have the opportunity to see the park as it evolves with emphasis on day-use facilities and programs relating to the Chesapeake Bay. To make your visit safer and more pleasant, we ask that you observe the following regulations:

 Swimming and wading are allowed only in the designated area. Shallow water hazards, steep dropoffs and boating traffic make other areas of our park unsafe for swimming or wading.

 The public use or display of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

 Hiking trails are for pedestrians and bikes only. Help us preserve our dunes. Stay on the dune walkways.

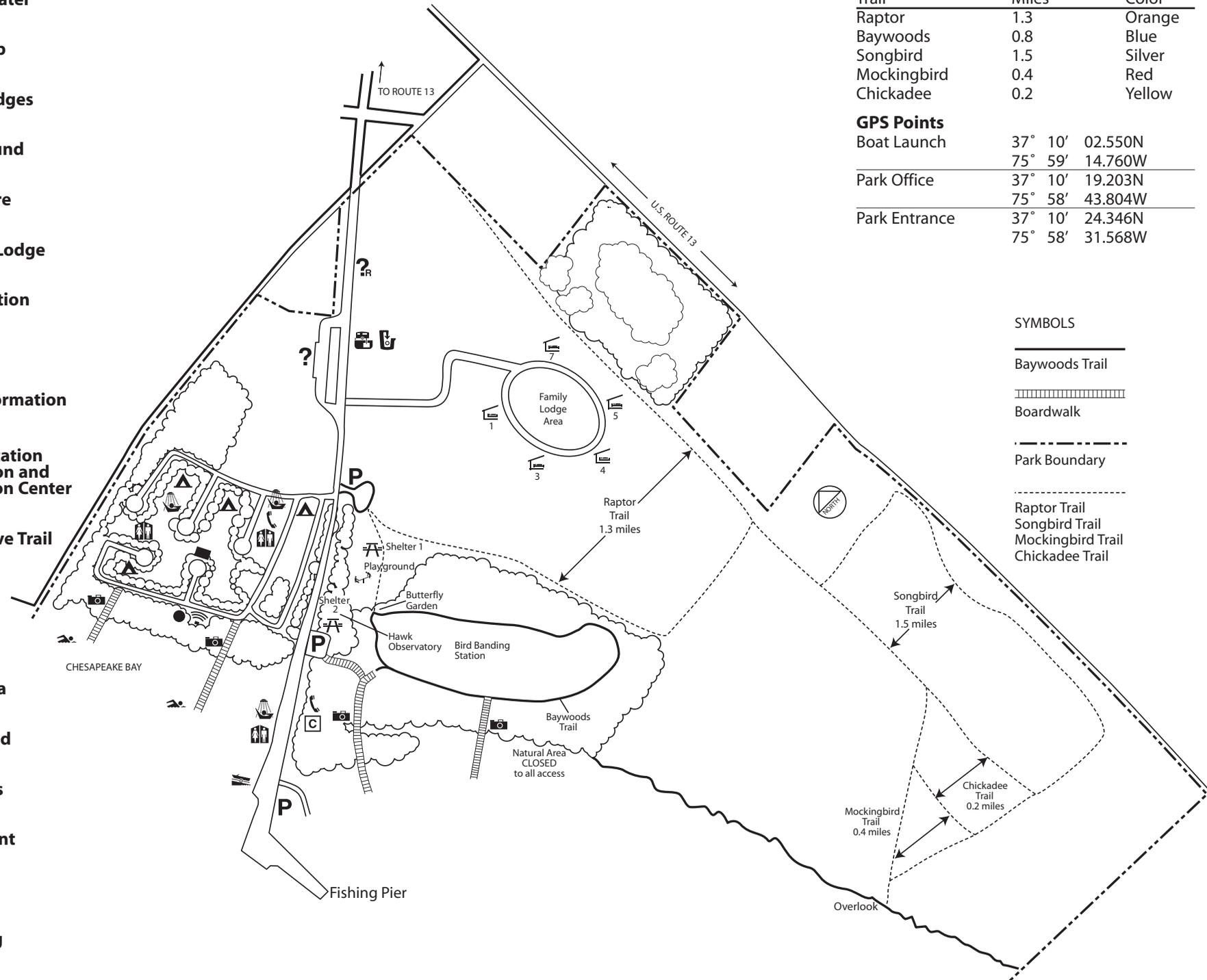
 Help preserve our park. Please don't cut or mar any plants or trees. Collecting animal or plant life is allowed only for scientific purposes by permit from the Richmond office.

 Pets are permitted in all state parks but must be kept in an enclosed area or on a leash no longer than six feet. No pets are allowed in swimming areas or toilet facilities.

 Please observe all park signs. Campground areas are for registered guests only.

 Please help us keep the park clean by placing litter in the proper receptacles.

-  **Amphitheater**
-  **Boat Ramp**
-  **Family Lodges**
-  **Campground**
-  **Camp Store**
-  **Camping Lodge**
-  **Dump Station**
-  **Dumpster**
-  **Office Information**
-  **Contact Station Information and Reservation Center**
-  **Interpretive Trail**
-  **Parking**
-  **Phone**
-  **Picnic Area**
-  **Playground**
-  **Restrooms**
-  **Scenic Point**
-  **Shower**
-  **Swimming**
-  **Yurt**



Trail Map Key

Trail	Miles	Color
Raptor	1.3	Orange
Baywoods	0.8	Blue
Songbird	1.5	Silver
Mockingbird	0.4	Red
Chickadee	0.2	Yellow

GPS Points

Boat Launch	37° 10' 02.550N	75° 59' 14.760W
Park Office	37° 10' 19.203N	75° 58' 43.804W
Park Entrance	37° 10' 24.346N	75° 58' 31.568W

- SYMBOLS**
-  Baywoods Trail
 -  Boardwalk
 -  Park Boundary
 -  Raptor Trail
 -  Songbird Trail
 -  Mockingbird Trail
 -  Chickadee Trail